

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03

SAM-01 SY-10 USSS-00 SAJ-01 DRC-01 (ISO) W

----- 023197

R 310915Z JAN 74

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1317

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 188

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CH, UR

SUBJECT: APPARENT PROVOCATION ATTEMPT AGAINST SOVIET AMBASSADOR

1. SOVIET AMBASSADOR TOLSTIKOV RECENTLY WAS INVOLVED IN MINOR ACCIDENT WHICH TOLSTIKOV (IN CONVERSATION WITH NEW ZEALAND AMBASSADOR HARLAND) DESCRIBED AS DELIBERATE CHINESE PROVOCATION. AS HIS CAR WAS COMING OUT OF SOVIET EMBASSY ON ANTI-REVISIONIST STREET A CHINESE ALLEGEDLY THREW HIMSELF IN FRONT OF TOLSTIKOV'S CAR. THE DRIVER SLAMMED ON BRAKES AND MAN WAS ONLY KNOCKED DOWN, SUFFERING MINOR HEAD CUT. TOLSTIKOV LEFT THE SCENE IMMEDIATELY. ACCORDING TO ONE VERSION, WHEN MAN GOT UP SAYING HE UNHURT HE WAS TOLD TO LIE BACK DOWN BY PUBLIC SECURITY MEN WHO APPEARED PROMPTLY.

2. IN SEPARATE BUT POSSIBLY RELATED DEVELOPMENT, VICE FONMIN CHIAO KUAN-HUA WAS ASKED WHY THE ACCOMPLICE OF LI HUNG-SHU, ALLEGED CHINESE CONTACT OF FIVE EXPELLED SOVIETS, HAD NEVER BEEN NAMED. CHIAO REPORTEDLY REPLIED, "BECAUSE WE HAVE BIGGER FISH TO CATCH."

3. COMMENT: IF TOLSTIKOV STORY ABOUT PROVOCATION IS CORRECT (IT IS WIDESPREAD AND GENERALLY BELIEVED IN DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY), PRC APPEARS TO BE CONTINUING PRESSURE ON
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SOVIETS HERE. PILING SPECULATION ON SPECULATION, CHIAO'S

COMMENT COULD REFER TO BIGGER CHINESE FISH AS WELL AS TO
RUSSIAN, LEAVING OPEN POSSIBILITY THAT SOMEONE IN POSITION OF
RESPONSIBILITY MAY BE ACCUSED OF LINKS WITH RUSSIANS.
JENKINS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADORS, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL HARASSMENT, TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PEKING00188
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PEKING
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974012/aaaaabns.tel
Line Count: 65
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 JUN 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <27 DEC 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: APPARENT PROVOCATION ATTEMPT AGAINST SOVIET AMBASSADOR
TAGS: PINT, CH, UR, (TOLSTIKOV)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005